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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## IRON ORE IN JANUARY 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in January 1997 was 9.3% lower than that of December 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 55.3% and mine stocks increased by 44.7%. Consumption and trade data for December 1996 will be included in a subsequent report.

### Iron Ore Contracts Signed

BHP Iron Ore, Australia, has reached agreement with Japanese steel mills for prices of Mt. Newman ore for the year commencing April 1, 1997. The prices agreed are:

- Mt. Newman Fines, 29.10 U.S. cents per dry long ton unit; an increase of 1.1%.
- Mt. Newman Lump, 37.68 U.S. cents per dry long ton unit; no change from that of 1996.

BHP has contracted to deliver 14.6 million tons, the same quantity as the prior year.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>BHP Mineral Global Report, Feb. 1, 1997, p. 1.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE, BY DISTRICTS 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Lake Superior		Other U.S.		Total 2/	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
Production:						
1996:						
January	4,232	4,232	35	35	4,267	4,267
February	4,217	8,449	25	60	4,242	8,509
March	4,801	13,250	23	83	4,824	13,333
April	4,668	17,918	22	105	4,690	18,023
May	5,479	23,397	20	125	5,500	23,522
June	5,128	28,525	22	147	5,150	28,673
July	5,771	34,296	22	169	5,793	34,465
August	5,752	40,048	119	288	5,871	40,336
September	5,590	45,638	25	313	5,615	45,952
October	5,347	50,985	26	339	5,373	51,325
November	5,503	56,488	24	363	5,527	56,852
December	5,260	61,748	20	383	5,280	62,132
1997:						
January	4,773	4,773	16	16	4,788	4,788
Shipments:						
1996:						
January	3,363	3,363	12	12	3,375	3,375
February	1,315	4,678	21	33	1,336	4,711
March	2,357	7,035	25	58	2,382	7,094
April	5,290	12,325	20	78	5,310	12,404
May	6,317	18,328	21	99	6,338	18,741
June	5,925	24,253	17	116	5,942	24,684
July	6,396	30,649	29	145	6,424	31,108
August	6,230	36,879	29	174	6,259	37,367
September	6,341	43,220	29	203	6,370	43,737
October	6,232	49,452	23	226	6,256	49,993
November	5,674	55,126	31	257	5,705	55,698
December	6,036	61,162	19	276	6,055	61,753
1997:						
January	2,693	2,693	16	16	2,708	2,708

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN JANUARY 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,184	1,014	1,024	1,357	2,333	1,393 r/
Minnesota	3,589	3,219	1,668	2,007	4,291	3,536 r/
Other U.S.	16	35	16	12	106	127
Total 4/	4,788	4,267	2,708	3,375	6,730	5,056 r/

r/ Revised.

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1996:					
January	477	686	42	6 r/	1,211 r/
February	646	927	46	7 r/	1,626 r/
March	444	743	49	6 r/	1,241 r/
April	2,075	741	36	8	2,859
May	1,343	1,927	45	9	3,325 r/
June	1,653	405	43	7	2,108
July	1,358 r/	995	38	8 r/	2,398 r/
August	2,132 r/	867	40	6 r/	3,045 r/
September	2,755 r/	906	58	8	3,726 r/
October	2,400 r/	1,551	114	9 r/	4,074 r/
November	2,620 r/	1,165	111	8	3,905 r/
December	2,056	1,145	111	8	3,320
Year total 1/	19,959	12,059	733	88	32,839
1997:					
January	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption of ores and agglomerates				
Consumption by source	December		Year to date	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
United States ores	4,957	4,851	56,805	58,336
Canadian ores	600	655	7,482	8,117
Foreign ores	527	700	7,401	7,719
Total 1/	6,085	6,205	71,689	74,171
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,474	5,641	64,875	67,595
Steel furnaces	8	5	87	59
Agglomerating plants 2/	586	558	6,669	6,488
Miscellaneous 3/	15	1	58	29
Total 1/	6,085	6,205	71,689	74,171
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	December 31			
	1996	1995		
Furnace yards	18,797	17,095		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,255	2,140		
Total consumer	21,051	19,235		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	December		Year to date	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,104	4,320	49,376	50,890 r/
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	36	40	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

3/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES, BY COUNTRY  
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1996				
	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	October	November	December
Canada	1,288	2,391	939	101	689
Mexico	2	2	(1/)	(1/)	1
Other	5	2	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Total 2/	1,295	2,394	940	102	689
Pellets	1,267	2,380	934	101	688
Other	28	14	5	(1/)	1
Total 2/	1,295	2,394	940	102	689

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES,  
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	December 1996		Year to date 1996			Year to date 1995 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Australia	--	--	511	3,505	6.86	570
Bahamas, The	--	--	186	4,897	26.33	115
Brazil	310	7,282	5,173	132,494	25.61	4,814
Canada	1,199	38,712	9,800	325,504	33.21	9,048
Chile	--	--	164	2,787	16.99	57
Finland	--	--	9	453	50.33	12
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Japan	--	--	(2)	1	8.75	--
Mauritania	--	--	275	5,088	18.50	317
Mexico	1	16	8	139	17.38	--
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	14
Peru	--	--	43	476	11.07	54
Spain	--	--	11	181	16.45	--
Sweden	--	--	48	2,047	42.65	47
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	(2)	8	18.00	2
Uruguay	--	--	24	591	24.63	--
Venezuela	236	8,500	2,140	78,272	36.58	2,501
Total 3/	1,747	54,511	18,392	556,442	30.25 4/	17,555
Concentrates	168	2,955	1,492	26,512	17.77	1,510
Coarse ores	190	7,164	1,367	50,984	37.30	1,967
Fine ores	132	2,693	3,368	55,907	16.60	3,554
Pellets	1,166	39,615	11,398	402,191	35.29	9,386
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	54
Other agglomerates	92	2,085	757	20,359	26.89	1,072
Roasted pyrites	--	--	10	490	49.00	12
Total 3/	1,747	54,511	18,392	556,442	30.25 4/	17,555

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

4/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES IN DECEMBER 1996  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 1/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	113	--	85	84	27	--	310
Canada	54	--	--	1,081	64	--	1,199
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Venezuela	--	190	47	--	--	--	236
Total 1/	168	190	132	1,166	92	--	1,747

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	December 1996		Year to date 1996			Year to date 1995
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	59
Brazil	84	2,993	1,728	65,462	37.88	1,179
Canada	1,081	36,621	8,771	302,290	34.46	7,202
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	36
Venezuela	--	--	899	34,440	38.31	911
Total 2/	1,166	39,615	11,398	402,191	35.29 3/	9,386

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND  
AGGLOMERATES, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	December	Year to date	
	1996	1996	1995
Baltimore, MD (13)	294	4,128	4,426
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	51	602	600
Chicago, IL (39)	426	3,202	2,893
Cleveland, OH (41)	54	802	1,670
Detroit, MI (38)	139	1,910	342
Duluth, MN (36)	--	51	--
El Paso, TX (24)	--	(1/)	--
Honolulu, HI (32)	--	(1/)	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	21	72	43
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	566	4,077	3,716
New Orleans, LA (20)	47	1,335	1,462
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	8	--
Norfolk, VA (14)	--	5	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	148	2,181	2,389
Portland, ME (01)	--	(1/)	--
San Diego, CA (25)	--	9	9
San Juan, PR (49)	--	11	5
Total 2/	1,747	18,392	17,555

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	December	Year to date	
	1996	1996	1995
Baltimore, MD (13)	145	1,686	1,524
Charleston, SC (16)	23	336	396
Chicago, IL (39)	259	1,909	1,474
Cleveland, OH (41)	54	696	1,586
Detroit, MI (38)	139	1,886	333
Duluth, MN (36)	--	51	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	21	62	43
Mobile, AL (19)	469	3,323	2,062
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	287	39
Philadelphia, PA (11)	56	1,163	1,928
Total 1/	1,166	11,398	9,386

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.